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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/010,739	12/06/2001	Mark Graham Lawrie	60130-1293/00MRA0037	2650

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EXAMINER

GREEN, CHRISTY MARIE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3635

DATE MAILED: 09/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/010,739

Applicant(s)

LAWRIE ET AL.

Examiner

Christy M Green

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 19-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 19-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 December 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 10.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is a first office action for serial number 10/0107739, entitled Assembly, filed on December 6, 2001.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the pre-deformed portion of the assembly and an associated region of the door panel must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7, 10-12, 15-17 and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sikula, US patent # 4,067,531.

Sikula discloses the claimed invention an assembly comprising a door panel (18), a window regulator housing component (16), window regulator drive system component (38), the panel being secured to the window regulator housing component by a deformed portion to provide a subassembly (12), in which the deformed portion is

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utilized to releasably secure the window regulator drive system component to the sub assembly via a fourth component (22); the panel includes a feature (42) which ensures alignment between the panel and the window regulator housing component; the deformed portion (44) is formed from a pre-deformed portion (36), the deformed portion co-operating with an associated region (40) of the panel, which during assembly of the panel (18) the window regulator housing component (16), the feature aligns the door panel and the window regulator housing component whilst the pre-deformed portion is remote from the associated region (figure 2); at least one of the panel, the window regulator housing component, and the window regulator drive system component a hole (between 37 and 36) to allow passage of the fourth component (22); the feature (42) ensures alignment between the subassembly (12) and the window regulator drive system (38) component; the drive system component includes a second hole (between 38) with a second hole diameter, and the regulator drive system component includes a third hole (28) with a third diameter; the second hole diameter is greater than the third hole diameter (figures 2 and 3); at least one of the second hole and the third hole (28) is a threaded hole (column 2, lines 3-5); the fourth component (22) is one of a self tapping screw, a bolt (column 1, lines 66-67), and a nut and a bolt; the regulator housing component includes a recess (where 37 points to – figure 2) and the recess includes a deformed portion (44 – figure 3); the panel lies in a substantially vertical plane (where 18 points to – figure 3); the feature (42) has horizontal extent (figure 2); the regulator housing component (16) is part of a window regulator drive (38) system mechanism (column 2, lines 26-34); the deformed portion (44) forms a seal (column 2, lines 33-37)

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between the panel (18) and the window regulator housing component (16); the deformed portion (44) is non-circular in cross-section (figure 3), the window regulator housing component (16) and the drive system component (38) relative to another of the panel and the regulator housing component and the drive system component (figure 3); and, at least one further deformed portion at a spaced location from the deformed portion (44) in which the panel (18) is further secured to the regulator housing component (38) by the at least further deformed portion (46).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Same

Claims 8, 9, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sikula.

Sikula discloses the claimed invention as stated above in claim 1, except for the third component hole diameter is greater than the second hole diameter; the second hole is equal to the third hole diameter; at least one of the panel, regulator housing component and the regulator drive system component is a plastic component and is integral with the deformed portion. In regards to the third component hole diameter is greater than the second hole diameter and, the second hole is equal to the third hole diameter, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to change the dimensions of the holes, since applicant has not disclosed that these different diameters

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solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with the second hole diameter is greater than the third hole component as it is already disclosed within the cited reference in figures 2 and 3).

In regards to at least one of the panel, regulator housing component and the regulator drive system component is a plastic component and is integral with the deformed portion, It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the regulator housing component (16) to be plastic and integral with the deformed portion (44), since it is known in the art that gaskets are made of plastic type materials and Sikula teaches the regulator housing component to be a resilient type of material which could obviously be a plastic type material.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christy M Green whose telephone number is 703-308-9693. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman can be reached on 703-308-0839. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

Juanre M. Horta
JMH

cg
September 21, 2003